

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AF-06 /065 W

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R 150937Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1432

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL OPORTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: OVER 6 MILLION REGISTER TO VOTE

1. VOTER REGISTRATION FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS NOW COMPLETE IN METROPOLITAN PORTUGAL AND ADJACENT ISLANDS. PRELIMINARY RESULTS SHOW THAT OVER 6.1 MILLION PERSONS HAVE REGISTERED, WHICH CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN 5.6 MILLION PREDICTED BY GOP PRIOR TO BEGINNING REGISTRATION PERIOD. PRECISE FIGURES REGARDING NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED WITH LOCAL PORTUGUESE CONSULATES AND THOSE PORTUGUESE REGISTERED IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES NOT AVAILABLE, BUT REPORTEDLY NOT AS HIGH AS EXPECTED.

2. REGISTRATION IN LISBON 1.3 MILLION, 680,000 IN OPORTO. STUBAL, BRAGA, AND SANTAREM OTHER DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST NUMBER PERSONS ON VOTER ROLLS. IN ONLY 8 OF 22 DISTRICTS WAS REGISTRATION LESS THAN PREDICTED, WHICH HOWEVER NOT A SIGN OF LOW VOTER INTEREST THERE, BUT RATHER OF INCOMPLETE STATISTICS REGARDING POTENTIAL NUMBER OF ADULTS OVER 18 REGISTERED IN DISTRICT.

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3. COMPLETE REGISTRATION STATISTICS BY DISTRICT AND LISTING

OF NEXT STEPS IN ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL BE FORWARDED SEPAIRS.

4. COMMENT: INTEREST IN ELECTIONS APPEARS HIGH JUDGING FROM SIZE OF TURNOUT TO REGISTER. ALMOST 3 TIMES AS MANY PERSONS HAVE REGISTERED FOR THESE ELECTIONS THAN SIGNED UP FOR 1973 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF REGISTRATION PROCESS AND CLAIM THAT PRESENCE OF "FASCISTS" AND OLD REGIME FIGURES ON SOME OF REGISTRATION BOARDS MAKE ELECTORAL ROLLS SUSPECT, NO ONE HAS PROVEN ANY ACTS OF FRAUD COMMITTED. MILITARY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ELECTORAL DEPARTMENT IN INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY HAS STATED FLATLY THAT NO FRAUD HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF AUTHORITIES SO FAR.

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